

## Sunday Morning Message

May 22, 2016

### Looking unto Jesus and His Parable of the Wheat and the Tares

Text for Today's Message – Matthew 13:24 – 30; 36 - 43

Congregational Reading – Matthew 13:34 - 35

Our theme for the year is *Looking unto Jesus*

Our theme verses are Hebrews 12:1 – 2

*"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1-2)*

This year, we will be preaching messages from the 4 gospel accounts in the New Testament and we will be closely examining the life of our Lord Jesus Christ while He walked the earth, learning the principles that He teaches us, specifically looking for ways to apply His life to our own.

### Introduction

Last week, we looked at the Parable of the Sower here in Matthew 13. Parables were a method of teaching that Jesus began to use in the second year of his earthly ministry, but only after the religious leadership of the Nation of Israel had already clearly rejected Him as their Messiah. They attributed His miracles to the power of Beelzebul. Parables are defined as an earthly story that teaches a greater spiritual truth, and they both reveal and conceal truth. To the unbeliever, these parables made little sense, but with the help of the Lord Jesus, and now through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, we who are believers can glean much from them.

In the Parable of the Sower we learned about the four different types of soil and how they receive seed and whether or not they will produce healthy plants that will produce fruit. We learned that the spiritual truth inside of the parable speaks of four different conditions of peoples' hearts, and how they receive the seed of the Word of God. We explained that the Parable of the Sower is a didactic parable in that it gives us instruction as to how to interpret other parables.

Today we will once again examine an agricultural parable that has to do with seed, but this time the seed that is sown in the field is explained to be people: either the children of God, or the children of the devil. Both are sown into the world, but sometimes it is difficult to tell them apart.

Read the text – Matthew 13:24 – 30; 36 – 43

1 Notice first of all, in verse 24, that this parable specifically speaks to the Kingdom of Heaven.

What is the Kingdom of Heaven and is there a difference between the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God?

*"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

Repentance – change of heart, mind and attitude that leads to a change of direction

Kingdom of Heaven

1 – General rule of God over the affairs of man on earth from creation through the Millennium.

2 – Specific rule of Christ over the earth during the Millennium.

3 – As distinguished from the "Kingdom of God" which is a broader phrase, which would include God's rule over everything in the universe and specifically references often the New Birth. The Kingdom of Heaven is included in the Kingdom of God.

4 – The Kingdom of Heaven with Christ as King was offered by John, Jesus, and Stephen but was rejected by the nation on all three occasions.

Notice the differences in these two verses:

*"From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matthew 4:17)*

*"Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." (Mark 1:14-15)*

2 Notice in verse 25, the enemy sowed in tares while the men were sleeping. A tare is a weed that resembles the wheat, but it does not produce any fruit, or possibly, it may produce the wrong kind of fruit.

### **Practical Point**

While the churches are asleep, the enemy is very busy advancing his agenda. In America, wickedness is multiplying and taking over like weeds because good men and women are asleep.

Keith Green said:

*"The world is sleeping in the dark, and the church just can't fight because it's asleep in the light."*

The church needs to wake up and get excited about preaching the gospel again.

The church needs to wake up and get bold about standing for the Truth again.

Several decades ago, they took the Bible and Prayer out of the school while we slept.

They legalized abortion while we slept. They passed out contraceptives to our children in the schools without our permission, and even took them for abortions without our permission.

Now they are allowing the young men to go in to the young ladies' bathrooms and locker rooms. They are taking the signs off of the bathroom doors. They are even talking about taking our children for gender change surgery without the parents' permission.

### **When are we going to wake up!**

3 Notice that the householder cautioned the servants in the field to not pull up the tares, because they might pull up some of the wheat while attempting to remove the tares.

Illustrate – my wife had planted some flowering plants in the little flower bed in front of our house. Every year in the spring the plants would come up and eventually bloom with pretty flowers. The problem was that some of those plants looked just like the weeds that also flourished in that garden. One time we were putting new mulch in the flower bed in the late spring and we were pulling the weeds out. Sure enough, we pulled out some of my wife's flowers.

4 Notice that Jesus says that He will take care of the tares. When will he do this? At the end of this world (vs. 36 – 43)

### **Transition**

Though this parable speaks of the Kingdom of Heaven, not the Kingdom of God; and though it speaks of the world and not the church, we cannot directly make application to believers within the body of Christ. However, I do believe that there are broad principles here that we can consider.

### **I Wheat and Tares Sometimes Appear the Same**

The difference will not be revealed until the fruit (or lack of fruit) appears.

Be careful not to judge whether or not somebody is truly saved based solely on their outward appearance. Tares will sometimes look like wheat and, unfortunately wheat will sometimes resemble tares.

Sometimes saved people and lost people look the same.

Be careful about judging – you may not see the whole picture

*"Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."* (Matthew 7:1-5)

Illustrate – “That guy is a tare” – A preacher determined that a man in his church was a tare and wanted to remove him.

Illustrate – Tom Tesse

## **II Wheat Will Eventually Produce Good Fruit – Tares Won't**

Turn to Matthew 7:13 – 23

What is the fruit of the believer?

### **1 The Fruit of the Spirit**

If the Holy Spirit is in you and you are not quenching Him and you are yielded to Him, you will be a conduit for His fruit.

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."* (Galatians 5:22-23)

### **2 The Fruit of Spiritual Offspring**

*"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."* (John 15:2)

### **3 Other Fruits - Biblical Evidence of a Genuine Conversion**

#### **a Better understanding of the Scriptures**

*"He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God."* (John 8:47)

*"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:"* (John 10:27)

*"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."* (1 Corinthians 2:14)

#### **b Love for the Brethren**

*"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death."* (1 John 3:14)

*"But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of*

*God to love one another." (1 Thessalonians 4:9)*

**c Conviction of Sin**

*"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." (John 14:16-17)*

**d A Changed Life**

*"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)*

*"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3)*

*"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:4)*

**e Peace**

*"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:" (Romans 5:1)*

*"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27)*

**f The Leading of God**

*"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." (Romans 8:14)*

*"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." (Philippians 2:13)*

**g Good Works**

*"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." (James 2:26)*

*"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)*

**h Chastening**

*"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons." (Hebrews 12:6-8)*

**I Continuing in the Word**

A tare can mimic all of these things for a while, but eventually his true colors will come out – his true fruit will appear.

*"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;" (John 8:31)*

## **Conclusion**

God does not want us to judge others as far as condemning them, but God does give us eyes and wisdom, and sometimes we should be concerned about the spiritual condition of our "brothers and sisters" in Christ. If there are no visible signs of fruit in a "brother" that is within the body, I get concerned about them. I don't try to remove them, but I will try to minister the Word of God to them in order to help them bear fruit. They may need to be saved. They may just need some help to grow.

But don't be quick to judge whether or not somebody is genuinely saved or not based on what you can see today. There may be some good fruit coming down the road.

*"Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God." (1 Corinthians 4:5)*

However, you may be here today and you are not wondering about anybody else's salvation, but you are concerned about your own relationship with God. Are you sure that you are saved? Do you see any of the fruits of salvation in your own life? Have you asked the Lord to save you?